various recommendations of the NCRL.

xvi) A separate Department of Rural Labour at the Centre and in the States with an independent directorate of Rural Labour In the States to deal with all aspects of Rural Labour.

3. As of now, the recommendations relating to a Central legislation for Agricultural Workers; Central Legislation for Construction Workers and about the steps needed for bonded labour are under active consideration, State Government have also been addressed to consider implementing the recommendation regarding a minimum wage of Rs. 20/- applicable on a country-wide basis.

4. Other Ministries/Departments concerned with specific recommendations have been requested to indicate their comments by 31st December, 1991.

Setting up of Industries in tribal areas of Bihar

*193. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any industrial licences have been issued for the setting up of industries in the tribal areas of the country, especially Chhota Nagpur area of Bihar, during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Statistics about Industrial Licences in respect of tribal areas are not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Industry, However, under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, the following number of Industrial Licences have been granted for centrally declared backward districts in the country including Chhota Nagpur area of Bihar during the last two years:-

Year	*Industrial Licences granted for backward areas of the country*
1989	175
1990	167

(b) Details such as name and address of the undertaking, location, item(s) of manufacture and capacity in respect of all Industrial Licences granted are published regularly by the Indian Investment Centre in their 'Monthly Newsletter'. Copies of this publication are being sent to the Parliament Library regularly.

Revival of Sick Units in Small Scale Sector

*194. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new policy for sick units in the small scale sector is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments would also be consulted in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). There is an existing policy for preventing sickness and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick SSI units. Further improvements in the policy in view of the current industrial scenario are being formulated in consultation with concerned Minis-

tries/Departments, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India, Small Industries Development Bank of India and other concerned agencies.

[*Translation*]

Abolition of Licensing System

*195. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small and big industries are likely to be affected as a result of abolition of licensing system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The abolition of industrial licensing system is not expected to affect adversely either small or big industries. On the contrary, the exemption from licensing will be particularly helpful to many dynamic small and medium entrepreneurs who have been unnecessarily hampered by the licensing system.

Consumer Price Index

*196. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the base year for the current series of Consumer Price Indices;

(b) since when this base year was adopted;

(c) whether the Government propose to have a new base year and also to revise the existing methodology adopted to arrive at the Consumer Price Index; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 1982.

(b) The base year was introduced from October, 1988.

(c) There is no such proposal for the present.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Investment by NRIs

*197. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the NRIs to invest in heavy industries in India;

(b) if so, the number of Non-Resident Indians so far permitted to start such industries; and

(c) the details of the scheme drawn up in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P.J. KURIEN):(a) to (c). Government of India in Ministry of Finance have decided to permit Non-resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies Predominantly owned by them to invest upto 100% of the equity in high priority industries and other industries, subject to the conditions laid down vide Press Note dated 28th October, 1991.